137 are the overwhelmingly predominant Caucasian bush growth. Both species are found in abundance on a very large strip within the forest zone and beyond it, over an absolute vertical [231] distance of 1800 m. Since bee-keeping is very common in the Caucasus, the azalea has in those regions a strong influence upon the composition of the honey. Strabon tells us of this [276] particular kind of honey, which seems to contain an inebriating, intoxicating, or narcotizing effect, at least upon certain individuals; people are said to become drunk, mad, furious, or even crazy. The present-day Turks in the areas along the Black Sea ranges, where the azalea is also found, call this honey däli bal ("crazy honey"), exactly the same expression used by Strabon, XII; 3, 18. A number of travelers reject these tales -- cf. the classical passage in Xenophon's "Anabasis", IV; 8, 20/21—as fables, probably because the azalea honey did not have any effect upon them.

The Caucasus is the original home of a number of fruit trees and other plants of great use to man. Thus, the walnut tree and hazelnut bush are natives of the Caucasus, where they are found in great groves or growing beside other trees in the forests. The valleys of Imeret'ia are generally considered to be the original home of the walnut tree. The hazelnut bush is abundant in the Caucasus as well as all over the Black Sea mountains in northern Anatolia.

But a small creeper, which with the ex-